

## Biographic memorial of Frederick Driscoll /

Frederick Driscoll

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with no premonitions of the wide divergence therefrom the future busy years would bring.

In the summer of 1856 he came west and found employment for a few months at Clinton, Iowa. While travelling on the Lake Michigan steamboat, "Niagara," in 1857, the boat was burned near Green Bay, Wis., and many of his fellow passengers were drowned. In attempting to assist one of these, a woman, Mr. Driscoll was struck by a floating spar and deprived of the sight of his left eye,—a permanent affliction, honorably incurred, which however failed to impair his subsequent potentiality.

He arrived in Minnesota in October, 1857, and, after a short stay in St. Paul, located at Belle Plaine in Scott county as bookkeeper for the land company which exploited the townsite.

He came, an ambitious, industrious, level-headed young man, to the Minnesota of the eventful decade preceding the Civil War, to breathe her invigorating air, to drink of her crystal waters, and bathe in her glorious sunshine. He came to share her affluent but undeveloped resources, the age-fattened fertility of her shoreless prairies, her immeasurable storage vaults of mineral wealth, and her forests of lofty pines.

He came to blend his destiny with a free, brave, virtuous people. They were rugged as the red foemen they confronted; primitive; poor in worldly possessions, but rich in daring and will and hope. He became one with them, without delay or misgiving, and within five years had gained a position of prominence from which he never receded.

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The Belle Plaine Land Company suffered some financial reverses, Mr. D. W. Ingersoll of St. Paul, a leading merchant, was made assignee, and Mr. Driscoll became his agent. Among the assets of the Land Company was a weekly newspaper, the "Inquirer," which, after many vicissitudes, suspended publication in 1861. At the suggestion of Mr. Ingersoll, Mr. Driscoll accepted the newspaper plant in payment of arrearages due for his services. He was not a practical printer, but he embarked on this untried venture, which was to shape and control the work of a lifetime, with youthful self-reliance, fully justified by the result.

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Meantime, other events which definitely affected his fortunes had occurred. On May 31, 1858, he had married at Belle Plaine Miss Ann L. Brown of New York, a daughter of Hon. J. B. Brown, who later, as Lieutenant Colonel of the 113th New York Infantry Volunteers, made a distinguished record in the War for the Union. Miss Brown, who had recently graduated at an eastern collegiate institution, was visiting her sister, Mrs. William G. Gates, at Belle Plaine, when the acquaintance began.

In November, 1860, Mr. Driscoll was elected a representative in the Minnesota Legislature from Scott county, and served during the session of 1861. He was a Republican, and Scott county was strongly Democratic; he was only twenty-six years old, and had lived in the state but two years; yet he was chosen by a small plurality, and bore a highly creditable part during the session in debates as well as in framing legislation. He was specially helpful in locating the terminus of the Duluth Railroad in St. Paul.

It was at the close of this session that he purchased the moribund newspaper, changed its name to the "Scott County Journal," transformed its politics from Democratic to Republican, and commenced the journalistic apprenticeship which was to give to the state and to the nation a genuine master workman.

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At the opening of the Legislative session of 1862, Mr. Driscoll came to the capital and with the prestige of his previous service in the House, added to that of a Republican editor, was elected Secretary of the Senate. He discharged his duties, both in the regular session and in the special session of that year, so acceptably as to attract the attention of the state leaders of one wing of the dominant Republican party, who encouraged him to bring his printing material to St. Paul and establish a daily paper in opposition to the Press.

It was a period of depression and solicitude for Minnesota. The rebellion in the South had drawn thousands of her patriotic sons to its remote battlefields, and the horrible Indian massacre of August, 1862, had depopulated her frontiers. Mr. Driscoll, physically disabled for field duty, nevertheless was given a commission which he was unable to accept, but he rendered valuable service in the quartermasters' department at Fort Ripley, and elsewhere, during the most trying season. 44

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In November, 1862, he removed to St. Paul and established the Daily Union. A young man just arrived from Ohio, named Harlan P. Hall, was his city reporter. The Legislature of 1863 was to elect a United States Senator to succeed Henry M. Rice. There were two Republican candidates, Governor Alexander Ramsey of St. Paul and Congressman Cyrus Aldrich of Minneapolis. The Press, owned by William R. Marshall and Newton Bradley, with Joseph A. Wheelock as editor, earnestly supported Governor Ramsey; Mr. Driscoll, in the Union, just as earnestly supported Colonel Aldrich. Ramsey won the senatorial toga, but at the same session of the Legislature Mr. Driscoll was elected State Printer, by which proceeding emoluments estimated at \$20,000 a year were transferred from the Press to the Union. Thus both papers had gained,—likewise both had lost. A consolidation was suggested and speedily effected.

Mr. Wheelock, at the outset, doubtless looked with amusement bordering on disdain upon this journalistic tyro from Scott county, who had the temerity to set up a rival Republican

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daily in St. Paul. But no sooner had the contest begun than he discovered, like Fitz-James of old:

“No maiden's hand is round thee thrown! That desperate grasp thy frame might feel,  
Through bars of brass and triple steel!”

And the contest did not last long. It was soon found expedient to unite the two papers. The Union was merged into the Press, March 1, 1863. Newton Bradley and William R. Marshall retired; Frederick Driscoll and Joseph A. Wheelock became partners and began an association that continued until 1899.

As to which was the senior and which the junior partner, opinions have differed. Mr. Wheelock, the editor, was always in the limelight, while Mr. Driscoll, the business manager, was less conspicuously displayed. United, they made a remarkably successful combination; separately, neither could possibly have accomplished so much.

Mr. Wheelock's half century of primacy in Minnesota journalism has its unchallenged historical recognition. He was one of the clearest thinkers and most forcible writers in the 691 nation, capable of sustained efforts of uniform excellence, with frequent flights into the realms of genius. An adept in nervous thought and muscular language, he wrote with a fullness of information and a richness of diction that commanded the applause of his friends, while it often exasperated his opponents. When his righteous indignation was aroused by some political atrocity, his wrath became highly inflammatory, and the colorscheme of his denunciations took on a lurid, sunset crimson. Not infallible in judgment, nor exempt from infirmities of temper and temperament, which at times cloud the intellectual vision, he was always credited with good motives and manly conduct.

The two associates worked together in harmony, as a rule, although such positive natures must have clashed occasionally in determining the policies to be pursued. Immersed together in many seething cauldrons of controversy, they often emerged discomfited, but never dismayed. Both cherished high ideals of journalistic responsibility. They repudiated

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the practices of those editorial parasites who cultivate an animal instinct until it approaches human sagacity in selecting a popular issue and then promptly changing it when the babble and jingle of current furor subsides. The editor who adopts this standard influences nobody; he permits everybody to influence him. He drifts with the tide, sprinkling all his utterances with a sterilized mist until the drift is discerned. Whether afflicting mankind through the pages of the daily yellow, the weekly roast, or the monthly muck-rake, he is a functional derelict.

No such perversion of allegiance marred the record of Wheelock and Driscoll. They were early in adopting and persistent in maintaining the standards of the press which made public opinion the paramount force in society and government. Healthfully directing this public opinion, the press of those days became an instrument of communication, a vehicle of influence; not the creator of civilization, but a marvelous engine for its diffusion; not perhaps moving the world, but moving with the world, and recording all its movements. In this capacity it developed into a ramified, radiating, educational institute, in whose laboratories the best thoughts and most practical intelligence were raw material, to be worked and reworked into progressive institutions.

While Mr. Wheelock had little or no taste for business details and left them all to his capable partner, it does not follow that Mr. Driscoll was equally unconcerned with matters pertaining to the editorial province.

Sarcasm and stigma have been lavished by unthinking phrase-coiners and wind-spinners on the charge that certain newspapers are "edited in the counting room." In one sense, the paper that is not edited in the counting room will not be edited at all, for any considerable length of time. Nor does this fact presuppose venality, or a lapse into the paths of consolidated corporation publicity. Even in the most independent and progressive journals, the business manager must be consulted as to the broad lines of editorial policy, as to allowable expenditures for news service, and as to the personnel of the staff, as well as their compensation. He thus becomes, to all intents and purposes, the managing editor,

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and has weighty prerogatives outside the vital function, naturally assigned to him, of providing the ways and means.

Mr. Driscoll was all this to the Press and the Pioneer Press for thirty-six years. He probably wrote few editorials. He probably censored few of Mr. Wheelock's writings,—it might have been better for the paper and the party if he had censored more of them, for his was the cooler brain. But that he fortified many of the strongest positions, energized many of the most creditable achievements and inspired many of the most trenchant utterances, is a well established truth of history. Thus in the broadest meaning of the term, Frederick Driscoll was a journalist.

From the conjunction of Wheelock and Driscoll, in the ownership of the St. Paul Daily Press and the harmonious adjustment of their respective functions, dates the entrance of the latter into a field of state-wide influence. His great opportunity had come, and he embraced it with the ardor that vitalized all his enthusiasms. He became a militant Minnesotan.

Sir Isaac Newton, modestly disclaiming praise for his scientific triumphs, attributed them to the broader vision he enjoyed 693 through standing on the shoulders of giants who had preceded him, Galileo and Kepler and Copernicus and the rest. To these he yielded primacy of honor.

But the early Minnesotans had no predecessors in their splendid work. They did not stand on the shoulders of giants. They were giants themselves, as if nourished on lions' milk and the marrow of bisons. Toiling terribly, they wrought mightily in their several spheres, each solicitous to do his manly part in building and embellishing the grand structure which his prophetic eye clearly discerned.

Minnesota was an empire from the day it was founded. Saint Paul was a city at the hour it was born.

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There were giants in those days, and Frederick Driscoll was with them and of them. He stood shoulder high with the pioneers, like Alexander Ramsey and Henry M. Rice and H. H. Sibley and William R. Marshall. He kept step with the developments worked out by E. F. Drake and W. L. Banning and W. F. Davidson and George L. Becker and Oliver Dalrymple and Thomas Lowry and James J. Hill, the empire builders, the men who did things. He sat in council with such financiers as Erastus Edgerton and Horace Thompson and H. P. Upham. He measured up to the intellectual standard of jurists like Gilfillan and Cornell and Cole and Flandrau and R. R. Nelson and George B. Young. In politics, he was the trusted adviser of Wisdom and Pillsbury and Dannel and Washburn and Wilkinson and John B. Sanborn and Cushman K. Davis; the dreaded antagonist of Donnelly and Eugene Wilson and Norton and Coggsell. He was the co-worker in business enterprise with John Nicols and C. D. Strong and P. H. Kelly and C. W. Hackett and Channing Seabury and J. B. Burbank. He worked in the ranks of journalism for the upbuilding of the State, heart to heart with J. A. Wheelock and W. S. King and J. A. Leonard and Daniel Sinclair. He walked hand in hand, in gracious deeds of philanthropy and benevolence, with D. W. Ingersoll and Wilford L. Wilson and D. R. Noyes and Thomas Cochran. With bowed head, reverently, he marched abreast of churchmen like S. Y. McMasters and D. R. Breed and E. D. Neill 694 and H. B. Whipple and John Ireland, in paths that lead to righteousness through Christian faith and hope.

It were an honor to any man who sustained himself for a long series of years on terms of acknowledged equality in a companionship like this, emulating the brotherhood at King Arthur's table round, the goodliest fellowship of famous knights whereof the world holds record. Frederick Driscoll thus sustained himself and more. In numerous vital emergencies, he was pushed forward, in one or another of these several fields of usefulness and honor, to a position of applauded leadership, and in no such case did he fail to vindicate amply the preferment.

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His early outlook and outreach had even a wider significance. They comprehended questions of national import, and involved considerations of loftiest patriotism. Mr. Driscoll was not only a Territorial Pioneer, but was a staunch and loyal supporter of Lincoln and the Union in the dark and bloody days of the war for the suppression of the slaveholders' rebellion, the days that tried men's souls.

The issues of the hour were clearly defined. In regard to them the paper published by Wheelock and Driscoll sounded always the clarion note of unconditional loyalty. The dominant issue was the life of the Republic. On that question there could be no equivocation or compromise,—he who was not for the country was against it. And in all the years succeeding, these patriots of the war era were ever the champions of the veteran soldiers of the Republic in every just appeal to the gratitude of the nation. The predominating tenet in their creed of civics was aggressive, progressive Americanism.

My personal acquaintance with Mr. Driscoll began at the first meeting of the Minnesota Editorial Association in February, 1867. He was the chairman of the local committee which invited the editors of the state to come to St. Paul. He was master of ceremonies at the initial assemblages, toastmaster at the banquet, and in general the director (if not the originator) of the movement which during forty-four years has done so much for the publishing fraternity of Minnesota, meanwhile developing into a powerful national association, which originated 695 here. The state organization was, from the beginning, with the full approval of the city members, specially devoted to the interests of the country press, but, as one of its founders, Mr. Driscoll always felt a personal pride in its prosperity.

In 1867 he was appointed Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, and held the position until 1870, conducting with skill the campaigns which resulted in the second election of Governor Marshall and the first election of Governor Austin. He was during this period and subsequently the moving spirit in what we called “the Ramsey dynasty,” the inner circle of leading Republicans who had in charge the political fortunes of Senator Ramsey. Governor Marshall, Gen. R. N. McLaren, Mr. Driscoll, and Mr. Wheelock,



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composed this inner circle, and they so managed affairs as to indicate, with a view to the Senator's continued tenure, most of the nominations for state officers, Congressmen, etc., as well as most of the appointments to Federal positions, during at least a full decade of Minnesota history. It was a puissant combination, devoted to what its members then believed to be a laudable purpose, as indeed is now conceded by some of their surviving opponents.

In May, 1870, Joseph A. Wheelock was, on the recommendation of Senator Ramsey, appointed Postmaster of St. Paul, by President Grant. The office in those days was usually treated as a sinecure, a political perquisite, not necessarily involving personal attention to its duties. The previous incumbent, Dr. J. H. Stewart, had continued his lucrative medical practice without interruption. Mr. Wheelock made Mr. Driscoll assistant postmaster, thus accomplishing the doubly desirable object of ensuring a competent business supervision of the post office and of securing a welcome recourse, for upbuilding the Republican party organ, of perhaps seven thousand dollars a year from their untied salaries.

During the five years they filled these positions, Mr. Driscoll gave all necessary attention to the postal work. In the beginning he demonstrated his executive ability by choosing Patrick O'Brien, from among his employees in the Press counting room, to handle the post-office money and keep the accounts. Mr. O'Brien is there today, having served continuously as Assistant 696 Postmaster since 1875, with the unqualified approbation of all succeeding administrations. Compared with its present operations and functions, the St. Paul post office was in 1869 of limited scope. But even then it was important, as the center of an expanding mail system. Mr. Driscoll managed its affairs efficiently, introduced many substantial reforms, and when, by the mutations of politics, Dr. David Day became postmaster in 1875, turned over to him the well organized up-to-date postal plant which it has ever since remained. If Mr. Driscoll had done nothing else that was noteworthy during his post-office incumbency, the discovery of Patrick O'Brien and his induction into the service would be a title to public gratitude.

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Senator Ramsey's second term expired March 4, 1875, and his friends waged a furious campaign for his re-election, of which campaign Mr. Driscoll was the commander-in-chief. Three candidates for Republican support were entered against him,—C. K. Davis, W. D. Washburn, and Horace Austin. After long delay and much heart-burning, Hon. S. J. R. McMillan, chief justice of the Supreme Court of the state, was elected as a compromise. Alexander Ramsey retired from the Senate, and the Saint Paul Press lost faith in the virtue of the party, if not in the perpetuity of the Republic.

One of the earliest official acts of Senator McMillan was to demand the removal of Mr. Wheelock and the appointment of Dr. David Day, the Senator's brother-in-law, as postmaster of St. Paul. Party usage constrained President Grant reluctantly to acquiesce, and the change was made. Mr. Driscoll ceased to be *de facto* postmaster, but left his salutary impress and his proficient helper behind him.

Shortly after this occurrence the startling announcement was made that the Pioneer and the Press had been consolidated under the management of Wheelock and Driscoll, and that the Pioneer Press was to be conducted as an independent journal, a thing then unprecedented in Minnesota politics.

By this consolidation, the oldest newspaper in the state, the Pioneer, became the senior segment of the coming colossus of the Northwestern press. The merger took effect April 11, 1875. A year later, the Pioneer Press acquired the Morning 697 Tribune and the Evening Mail, at Minneapolis, suspended their publication, and for a time held a monopoly of the daily newspaper field of the Twin Cities, except the St. Paul Evening Dispatch.

Mr. Driscoll was necessarily the prime factor in negotiating and effecting these several fusions or amalgamations, in each case adding to the prestige and profits of his great journal. Whether the ablest survive, or only those ablest to survive, the survivals concededly receive the credit and reap the rewards. In his admirable history of Minnesota Journalism, in this Society's Collections (Volumes X and XII), Mr. D. S. B. Johnston traces

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the pedigree of the Pioneer Press, and shows that nineteen daily and weekly newspapers were first and last absorbed into its ravenous organism.

The Pioneer had been a Democratic paper, and the Press had been Republican. It seemed to be both logical and prudent that the consolidated sheet should be independent. But its new owners were too sincerely attached to their party principles, and had too long held front seats in the party councils, to refrain permanently from partisan and even factional interposition. Within two years the Pioneer Press was as solicitous for Republican nominations as the familiar Press had been for fifteen years preceding.

In the interim of attempted neutrality, however, the Republicans of the state, feeling lost without an "organ" at the capital, which was then deemed essential to the maintenance of party ascendancy, purchased from H. P. Hall the Democratic St. Paul Evening Dispatch, and transformed it into an exponent of unconditional Republicanism. Thenceforward for ten years the Dispatch was mostly under the editorial control of the writer hereof. During that period and long afterward the Dispatch at least shared equally with the Pioneer Press the honors of a consistent advocacy of Republican principles, and of choosing the winners among Republican candidates for nominations,—in the latter performance the two papers being invariably on opposite sides.

After 1875 Mr. Driscoll's aggressive personal leadership in political contests had measurably ceased. In 1879 he led a successful 698 campaign for Governor Pillsbury's third term nomination; in 1881 he tried to rehabilitate Alexander Ramsey as a senatorial candidate, but failed; the same year he supported Governor Pillsbury's unsuccessful candidacy for a fourth term; in 1883 he was prominent in the movement to re-elect Senator Windom, who was defeated. In these struggles he was of course supported by the Pioneer Press, which was antagonized by the Dispatch and by ninety per cent of the Republican country papers throughout the state. The scepter had departed.

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As a result of these and other episodes, the Pioneer Press and its conductors gradually lost in political prestige. But in the legitimate newspaper field, in news gathering, in the intelligent presentation and discussion of important events, in expanding circulation and increasingly profitable advertising patronage, the enterprising journal went on conquering and to conquer. As always, Frederick Driscoll guided its financial destinies. His eye was on every detail of its complicated business, and that of the manufacturing and mercantile branches he had built up around it, the printing, binding and lithographing establishment, the wholesale paper and stationery trade, and the ready-print auxiliary, each an industry in itself.

Yet amid all the exacting demands of this, the busiest time of his busy life, he always found leisure for cheerful participation in matters relating to the public welfare. In this capacity he was one of the strongest and most useful men our city and state have ever known. The real value of his truly unselfish service cannot be overestimated. He was the cultured man, the gentleman, in the highest meaning of those expressions. Yet his was a militant soul. He was not merely a good man negatively; he went out and fought for the faith that was in him.

His interest in everything that pertained to business extensions, municipal policies, and official responsibilities, made him a leader among the men who were shaping the evolution of our ambitious and struggling young city. Every step in St. Paul's advance had to be worked and fought for against 699 vigorous rivalry. No more zealous worker or more chivalrous fighter than Frederick Driscoll contributed to the ultimate victory.

One of the chief instrumentalities through which the unfailing public spirit of Mr. Driscoll was manifested was the Board of Directors of the Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce. During thirty-five strenuous years this organization had an influential part in shaping the policies which built up the metropolis out of a struggling trading post. During that period, I sat with him in that body, composed of about fifty active citizens in professional and business lines, who met at nine o'clock every Monday morning to discuss and act on

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measures of general interest. Thus I witnessed his intelligent zeal for the public good, saw the results of his arduous labors on many committees, learned to recognize and admire his self-reliant leadership at critical crises in our municipal annals. In 1890, at one of its most strenuous epochs, he served as president of this powerful organization.

Among the numerous important matters in which he thus exercised a potent influence, were the extension of early railroad systems and the location of their shops and headquarters; securing manufacturing and commercial establishments; building two State Capitols, the Court House, the Federal Buildings, depots and hotels; locating schools, colleges, parks, bridges, and street car lines; regulating taxation and bond issues; establishing water works; encouraging immigration; and promoting all enterprises that promised benefits to the people. Scarcely one of these failed to receive the special impress of his good sense and untiring effort.

A typical instance of Mr. Driscoll's single-hearted devotion to his conception of civic duty occurred in 1890. In that year the Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee on the Census, instructed to stimulate, by legitimate means, the federal authorities in securing a full and fair enumeration of this city. The committee consisted of Frederick Driscoll, Charles Nichols, and the writer hereof. It was a period of intense rivalry between Minneapolis and St. Paul, and without the knowledge of our committee the acting mayor of this city, Mr. O. O. 700 Cullen, employed skillful detectives to watch the census operations of our aggressive twin. Unmistakable evidence was secured that systematic methods for improperly swelling the population rolls were being employed there. Advised of this, the St. Paul census committee made complaint to the census bureau at Washington, which, on investigation, found that a flagrant violation of law was being perpetrated. Warrants were sworn out; the two managing agents of the conspiracy were arrested; a wagonload of incriminating fraudulent schedules was secured, and the scheme by which it was proposed to add 50,000 names to the lists was thwarted.

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A stupendous explosion of local indignation promptly ensued. The honest people of Minneapolis, innocent, and ignorant of the work in which a few of their unscrupulous leaders had been secretly engaged, denounced the seeming outrage of the proceedings taken in St. Paul, and blazed forth in fierce wrath against those responsible for it. Well to the front among those who were thus marked for vengeance was Frederick Driscoll. He had most to lose, but he did not shirk nor quail. The Pioneer Press had then a large daily circulation and a profitable advertising patronage in Minneapolis, which was lost in a day and was never afterwards regained. But Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Wheelock and their paper stood by their guns at the cost of many thousands of dollars, and of a journalistic "dual city" prestige which had been their joy and pride.

They were sustained by St. Paul sentiment. The movement resulted in a fair count in both cities. The arrested criminals were indicted, pleaded guilty, and were punished by heavy fines, thus vindicating the proceedings taken and those concerned in them. But the pecuniary loss suffered by the paper and its owners was, of course, never recompensed. It was a deliberate sacrifice to the obligations of good citizenship, as understood by those who made it.

Another manifestation of Mr. Driscoll's progressive public spirit was seen in the fine buildings he caused to be erected in St. Paul, and in his participation in the development of suburban property. When I first met him, the Press office was a dilapidated half-subterranean structure at the Wabasha street 701 bridge. In 1869 he built a new and, for the time, elegant stone building at Third and Minnesota streets. Five years later, this being outgrown, its capacity was increased fourfold by additions to its length, breadth, and height. About 1888, he built the magnificent Pioneer Press Building at Fourth and Robert streets. He scrutinized every feature of its construction with careful attention. After more than twenty years it still remains the finest structure in the city, a monument to his far-reaching enterprise. Now that the newspaper plant has been removed, it ought to be rechristened "The Driscoll Block," as a tangible and enduring tribute to his memory.

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On Summit avenue, he built one of the most sumptuous of its stately homes, that now occupied by Mr. Frederick Weyerhaeuser. He was the leader in building up a prosperous manufacturing suburb at North St. Paul, an undertaking in advance of the demands of the time, and of no pecuniary profit to himself or his associates, but now partially recognized as a valuable tributary to the city.

A crucial test of individual merit is the estimation with which one is held by those in long and near association with him as subordinates and employees. One the whole, several thousands of persons were employed in the various departments of the allied concerns managed by Mr. Driscoll, and few indeed will be found that did not see in him a helper and a friend. In the best newspaper offices of the country, in banks and counting rooms, from ocean to ocean, will be found successful men who are earnest in their ascriptions of praise for the training they received at his hand. In the higher ranks of the writers attached to his editorial staff at different periods were such strong and able men as Louis E. Fisher, Charles Yale, Harlan P. Hall, David Blakeley, James H. Davidson, Paul Selby, F. A. Carle, J. G. Pyle, Conde Hamlin, W. C. Handy, and others equally notable, each abundantly equipped for independent service, but all paying to their one-time employer the homage of their respect and esteem.

Owing to mutations of fortune caused by conditions which he could not foresee, and for which he was in no way responsible, Mr. Driscoll surrendered the management of the Pioneer 702 Press corporation on December 1, 1899, after a continuous service of more than thirty-six years.

The momentum given to its varied business operations by his masterly supervision was so powerful that all have been maintained unimpaired to this day. During the intervening eleven years, the newspaper has passed to the ownership of Mr. George Thompson, Proprietor of the Dispatch, both journals retaining their old names and their individuality as to hours of publication, etc.; the Newspaper Union ready print department has become a separate institution; the manufacturing and commercial branch has organized into the

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Pioneer Printing Company, with Mr. Walter J. Driscoll as its president; the superb office building is now under distinct proprietorship and control. Thus the great enterprise built up by Frederick Driscoll has been segregated into at least four flourishing establishments, each requiring unremitting diligence and exceptional managerial skill.

At the age of sixty-six, two years beyond the supposed limit of efficiency in officers of the army, he laid down the special burden he had carried for a generation, but he did not retire. On the contrary, he entered on a new career, which led him into even higher, wider ranges of endeavor than those in which he had previously toiled and triumphed.

He had already become a national figure in lines connected with practical journalism. He was one of the founders of the Associated Press, the universal news-gathering agency of the country. In 1881 he became one of its directors, and for ten years served on the Executive Committee of three, which governed its affairs. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, embracing the dailies of all the principal cities. In 1891 he was chosen chairman of a special committee of this body to examine the merits and possibilities of type-setting machines, then regarded with suspicion by publishers and with open hostility by printers. After patient and thorough investigation this committee recommended the adoption of the new invention in newspaper offices, thus revolutionizing the business, making 703 the cheap newspaper possible, and vastly extending the facilities for the diffusion of human knowledge.

Thus prominently identified with the leading publishing interests by long association, his colleagues at once availed themselves of the opportunity, when he left the Pioneer Press, to enlist his services in a very important capacity, for which he was known to possess rare qualifications. A national board of arbitration was created. It was composed of the special standing committee of the American Newspaper Publishers Association and the executive council of the International Typographical Union. Of this national board Frederick Driscoll was early in 1900 made Commissioner of Arbitration, with wide discretionary authority and a liberal provision as to salary and expenses.



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The duties of this position covered the adjustment of all controversies between publishers and printers. They were complicated and exacting, involving the weariness of long journeys across the continent, the strain of settling acrimonious disputes, and the labor of framing agreements between the parties thereto. His long experience as a publisher, his firm but conciliatory and diplomatic methods, enabled him to handle questions of extreme delicacy, in which large money considerations were at stake, as well as pride of opinion and issues seemingly irreconcilable between labor and capital. He was implicitly trusted, from the beginning, by the publishers, and soon grew to be held in the highest esteem by the labor unions. Ever insisting on justice, his conduct was so eminently fair and his manner so persuasive that he effected a complete adjustment in every case submitted to his arbitrament,—a record unparalleled in the history of trade contentions. He assuredly earned in this life, and has received in the life beyond, the blessing promised to the Peacemakers.

He was a pioneer in the movement for better relations between employer and employed. He had no precedents to guide him. He was obliged to blaze his way through a forest of tangled prejudices and animosities, arrogant defiance on one side, and sullen contumacy on the other. These had brought strikes and lockouts, sometimes riots, always costly to both parties, 704 demoralizing the community and paralyzing its productive industries.

Various remedies had been tried, all of which had failed. Finally the publishers and printers decided to seek relief in a policy of conciliation and arbitration. As a motto they might have combined the phrases of two eminent Union commanders: "War is hell—let us have peace!" Providentially they found Frederick Driscoll competent and willing, and with leisure to inaugurate the experiment. Organized labor and the associated employers of labor saw in him a mutual friend. Expert, just, patient, persistent, and ever kindly, he always found in the end a common ground of fairness on which all could meet and frame a satisfactory agreement for their future guidance.

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He gave himself to this fruitful mission, with ever increasing capacity for good, during the remainder of his life. How fully he succeeded in accomplishing the duty assigned him, is most conclusively shown by the voluntary tributes transmitted to his family, after his decease, by the national jurisdiction best qualified to appreciate his work.

A memorial brochure, beautifully engrossed and bound, contains Resolutions adopted and signed by the National Board of Arbitration, including James M. Lynch, Hugo Miller, and J. W. Bramwood, representing the International Typographical Union, which read:

“Whereas, death has summoned from among us Frederick Driscoll, Commissioner of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, and Whereas, the members of this National Board of Arbitration desire to bear witness to their very high appreciation of his valued services to the Publishers as well as to the International Typographical Union, to his fair-mindedness and unceasing efforts to promote the mutual interests of employers and employees, and to his many estimable and lovable qualities as a man; Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the members of this board feel that in Frederick Driscoll's death they have lost a distinguished associate and a warm personal friend.”

An equally sumptuous volume, suitably embellished, contains the Memorial to Mr. Driscoll from the Publishers' Association of New York City, adopted March 27, 1907.

It is signed by the publishers of the New York Times, the Tribune, the Sun, the American, the Journal of Commerce, the 705 World, the Evening Post, the Staats-Zeitung, the Brooklyn Eagle, etc., and is of similar tenor. These two testimonials constitute a significant and conclusive tribute to his exalted worth. They will be a precious heirloom for his descendants.

Innumerable editorial tributes to his memory from the press of the United States testified to the esteem in which he was held by associates of all parties and in every section. In these

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conspicuous mention was made of the beneficial results accomplished by the Arbitration Commissioner during his seven years' arduous service.

The distinguished success of Mr. Driscoll in this new field, of adjusting the relations between employers and employees, led to its adoption in other branches of industry, and the process of extending the policy of arbitration is still going on. Comments at a meeting of another national body, which has entered upon the same course are as follows:

“Plans for the elimination of strife are not only going to meet with the approval of trade unionists, but are going to be sanctioned by the general public, who are anxiously awaiting the evolution of things, so that warfare between employers and employees may be averted. In the struggle for supremacy between organized capital and organized labor, there are three great forces at work. At one extreme there are those who say that trades unions are un-American and a menace to our Republic. To bring about their annihilation they accumulate corruption funds, maintain lobbies, hire strike-breakers, and through court proceedings try to tie up the funds of the Unions. At the other extreme we have the radicals who declare that wage-slavery must be abolished, and that only through publicly owned monopolies is industrial peace possible. Between these two extremes lies the Arbitration idea. Its guiding principle is the making of collective instead of individual contracts, and the adjustment of points of dispute by arbitration. Our plan of action is to form a coalition with the unions for the purpose of maintaining peace. It is understood that the exigencies of the business must be taken into consideration, so that the customer may be treated with fairness and not have to pay the onerous expenses of strikes and lockouts.”

Wherever tried in good faith this policy is said to be effective for the object intended. Peace is promoted with profit to both sides and to the general public. Thus the results of the culminating exploit of Frederick Driscoll are spreading in great waves of benignity over the land. If the permanent meliorations 706 that are now reasonably expected all be compassed, he will be conceded high rank among the nation's benefactors.

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Mr. Driscoll's engagements as Commissioner of Arbitration required the establishment of his headquarters in Chicago, and he removed from St. Paul to that city in 1900. Thereafter he was obliged to travel almost continuously in the performance of his duties. A naturally robust physical constitution, fortified by the good habits of a lifetime, had kept his general health sound; but an organic trouble, requiring, in the aggregate, seven severe surgical operations, sapped his vitality by degrees and led to almost ceaseless suffering. In spite of these afflictions he went on with his work for seven years, heroically battling to the last with bodily tortures that would have baffled any but an unconquerable will.

Finally, in March, 1907, he felt unequal to further service as Commissioner, and tendered his resignation to the Arbitration Board. He was urged to accept an unlimited sick-leave, with continued salary and provision for the expenses of a trip to Europe in search of relief. This striking proof of appreciation touched him very deeply, but its suggested advantages could not be realized. He gradually failed, and on March 23, 1907, he passed peacefully away at his home in Chicago. Only two weeks before his death he had rendered valuable assistance, by wise counsel, in the settlement of a labor disagreement. He thus died, literally and appropriately, with his armor on, after an extended career of activity and usefulness and honor.

The funeral services were held in Saint Paul, March 26, 1907, and were conducted by Dr. Henry C. Swearingen, pastor of the House of Hope Church. The pallbearers were W. J. Dean, E. L. Shepley, Webster Wheelock, Conde Hamlin, J. D. Armstrong, and Dr. Archibald McLaren. The interment was at Oakland cemetery.

He rests in peace. He had kept the faith. He had lanced a festering abscess in the body politic and applied healing lotions. He had stretched fresh wires into the domain of industrial economics and electrified them with his soul.

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Mrs. Ann Brown Driscoll died March 31, 1880, leaving three sons. On November 8, 1882, Mr. Driscoll was married in New York City to Mrs. Lucy Norris Styles of St. Paul, who shared his successes and labors for twenty-five years. Mrs. Driscoll now resides in this city. There also survived him, his sons, Frederick Driscoll, Jr., Arthur B. Driscoll, and Walter J. Driscoll; his daughter, Mrs. Robert H. Kirk; and his step-son, John N. Jackson.

In regard to the personal character of Mr. Driscoll, I speak from the fullness of knowledge and appreciation born of forty years' intimate acquaintance. In politics we were sometimes in relations of affiliation, but often in those of intense antagonism; in business life we were at times in keen rivalry, yet more frequently in close and harmonious association. But we were always personal friends, and all my recollections of him are illuminated by the sincere respect which flows from an abiding friendship and affection. My sentiment is one of devotion to his memory, inspiring a desire to record some of his titles to grateful remembrance. It is my hope that the Minnesotans of today and of the future may keep, around the spot where he sleeps, the vigils of their heartfelt gratitude, evincing the same constancy and fidelity with which he gave his best endowments to their service.

In his private life Mr. Driscoll was, from boyhood and in all relations, an exemplar of correct morals and earnest religious convictions. He stood for what is best in framing the elements of our Christian civilization, the hope of the country, the light of the world. He was one of the first members of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, and was a leader of the choir in its early days. He served for many years on its board of trustees, and was always a generous contributor to its denominational and benevolent agencies. By precept and example he lent encouragement to every judicious effort for the regeneration of society and the uplift of the race.

In social circles his genial manners, added to his fine conversational powers, brought to him many sincere and trusting friends. When recreation for a season drew him aside from his arduous labors, it was with the most lively satisfaction and pleasure that he gave himself up to the full measure of social enjoyment; his conversation sparkled with wit and

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humor; his manner, winning with a fine civility, was frank, tender, and trusting. In fraternal societies he was prominent and popular. He was a Mason of the thirty-fourth degree, and fulfilled all obligations faithfully. He was the incarnation of unconditional loyalty,—loyalty to his country, his home, and his friends. He was chivalrous to women, and little children loved him.

In his ideal home life the amiable elements of his character were most pleasingly manifested. Those permitted even casual observations of that life were always impressed with its beautiful, affectionate simplicity. Methodical in business, even abrupt and emphatic at times, he was always in his home the devoted, thoughtful, considerate husband and father. His tender solicitude for the comfort of an invalid wife during several of the most toilsome, perplexing years in the prime of his manhood, was a revelation of his inmost soul that commanded the enduring regard of all who witnessed it.

He was a courageous man, having the courage of his opinions. No hope of temporary advantage could ever tempt him, no flattery could cause him to swerve from his view of the right. Steadfast in the convictions of a well-matured, well-balanced mind, he stood firm in his position, and hence he was a wise counsellor, and a true friend. He could say No! and mean it, and stand by it. Thus accoutred, he went forward, taking no counsel of doubts or fears. In the corrupted currents of the time Frederick Driscoll was incorruptible. In the thick of the fray he played the part of a man.

Mr. Driscoll had many of the true elements of greatness. He was manifestly something more than a fortunate man. What there was of greatness in his personality or his career is due not alone to good fortune, but to a blend of certain inherent qualities, the qualities of honesty, generosity, firmness, and patriotism.

Exceptional faculties of perception, reception, and retention, joined to untiring industry,—these constitute real greatness, and, given or making opportunity, achieve distinguished success. Measured by the most exacting standards, Mr. Driscoll was a successful

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man. It was not a success acquired by fortunate accident, nor by any sensational exploit, nor by the manipulations of frenzied finance. It was that which results from patient industry, careful thought, unceasing persistence, and a wonderful faculty for securing loyal service from employees. One may pardonably felicitate himself on being honored with the confidence of such a man.

For nearly forty years he was the controlling genius of a great newspaper plant, as well as of an extensive manufacturing establishment, and, latterly, of commercial adjuncts, all managed by one corporation of which he was the head. He did not inherit this property; he did not acquire it by doubtful means, or even purchase it ready made. He created it. He built it up and he grew with it, grasping and wielding its enormous influences, mastering its innumerable details, until, in all its business aspects at least, his name and that of the publication with its auxiliaries became interchangeable terms,—all the activities of the corporation were vitalized with his individuality.

What sturdy development a man's nature may receive from a long period of sustained service at the head of a great industrial enterprise, has been copiously observed in this era of marvelous expansion. The industrial manager entertains no prejudices and plays no favorite. He never indulges in malicious animal dogmatism. He knows that success depends on preserving an absolutely open mind. His constant incentive is efficiency, and yet more efficiency. He knows that he is operating in a realm where brains are daily subjected to the polishing of the fiercest competition known to man.

Frederick Driscoll's career, with its share of trials and reverses, was a success. It is full of good example, and of noble encouragement to the young men of today. He took the buffeting of ill fortune with fortitude, and accepted good fortune gratefully, but without false pride. Born and reared with no wealth, with no inherited prestige to rest upon, alone with his own great mind and energies, he became one of the notable men of a notable era in this wonderful new Northwest.

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He was easily one of the foremost in the front rank of his contemporaries. He left the indelible impress of his exceptional talents, his tireless industry, and his inflexible integrity, on many features of the advancement of this city, of this State, and of the embryo communities beyond our Western border, which for three decades looked to this center as a source of information, of political guidance, of commercial and financial tutelage.

And perhaps his last days were his best days. Having served faithfully in diverse fields of local effort, with wide radiations of beneficent influence, he was, at an age which entitled him to retirement and rest, transferred to spheres of national achievement, yielding distinction it is the privilege of few to win.

He did not retire, and he did not rest. Well past three score years and ten, his untiring energies still consecrated to good works, he fell, at last, a mailed warrior of the Empire of Peace and Civilization, "rich in honor and glorious with praise."